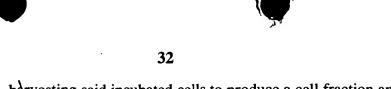
Claims:

isolated nucleic acid comprising the sequence depicted in Figure 1 1 2. A nucleic acid as defined in claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid is DNA. 1 A nucleic acid as defined in claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid is RNA. 3. CHULLE HE HELLE HE A recombinant DNA vector comprising a sequence as defined in claim 1 2 1. 5. A recombinant DNA vector comprising a sequence as defined in claim 1 1 operably linked to a transcription regulatory element. 6. A cell comprising a DNA vector as defined in claim 5, wherein said cell 1 2 is selected from the group consisting of bacterial, fungal, plant, insect, and mammalian cells. 1 7. A method for producing a polypeptide, said method comprising incubating a cell as defined in claim 6 under conditions that permit expression of one or more 2 3 polypeptides encoded by said nucleic acid. 1 8. A method as defined in claim 7, further comprising:

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(a) harvesting said incubated cells to produce a cell fraction and a medium 2 fraction; and 3 (b) recovering said one or more polypeptides from said cell fraction, said 4 medium fraction, or both. 5 A purified isolated nucleic acid encoding the amino acid sequence depicted 10. A nucleic acid as defined in claim 9, wherein said nucleic acid is DNA. 1 11. A nucleic acid as defined in claim 9, wherein said nucleic acid is RNA. 1 12. A recombinant DNA vector comprising a sequence as defined in claim 9. 1

- 13. A recombinant DNA vector comprising a sequence as defined in claim 9 1 2 operably linked to a transcription regulatory element.
- 1 14. A cell comprising a DNA vector as defined in claim 13, wherein said cell is selected from the group consisting of bacterial, fungal, plant, insect, and mammalian cells. 2

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reactions;



1	15. A method for producing a polypeptide, said method comprising incubating
2	a cell as defined in claim 14 under conditions that permit expression of one or more
3	polypeptides encoded by said nucleic acid.
1	16. A method as defined in claim 15, further comprising:
2	(a) harvesting said incubated cells to produce a cell fraction and a medium
3	fraction; and
4	(b) recovering said one or more polypeptides from said cell fraction, said
5	medium fraction, or both.
. 6	17. A purified polypeptide comprising a sequence selected from the group
7	consisting of the sequence depicted in Figure 1 SEQ ID NO:2 and function-conservative
8	variants thereof.
9	18. A purified polypeptide comprising amino acids 1-45 of the sequence depicted
10	in Figure 1 SEQ ID NO:2.
1	19. A method for identifying hERβ-interactive compounds, said method
2	comprising:
3	(a) contacting purison hERS with a labelled ligand in the presence of test

compounds, to form test reactions, and in the absence of test compounds, to form control

(b) incubating said test and control reactions under appropriate conditions 6 to achieve equilibrium binding of said labelled ligand to hER\beta; 7 (c) determining the level of binding of said labelled ligand to hERB in said 8 test and control cultures; and 9 (d) identifying as a hER β -interactive compound any compound that reduces 10 the binding of said labelled ligand to hER β . 11 20. A method as defined in claim 19, wherein said ligand is $17-\beta$ estradiol. 1 defined in claim 19, wherein said hER β -interactive 1 A method as 2 compound is an agonist. 22. A method as defined in claim 19, wherein said hER β -interactive 1 compound is an antagonist. 2 23. An antibody that specifically recognizes hER β . 3